

Words In The News

Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets
with answers

Nissan Navara scores
worst for safety –
27 February 2008



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Level: Intermediate and above

Topic: A Nissan truck has received one of the worst ever crash safety scores

Language: Vocabulary of a news report

Aims:

Reading skills	– Understanding a short news report
Language skills	– Vocabulary – binomials
Writing skills	– Debating controversial topics

Materials:

Worksheet 1	– Comprehension questions
Worksheet 2	– Vocabulary matching task
Worksheet 3	– Grammar/language focus – binomials

News story – Available online at:

http://www.bbclearningenglish.com/newsenglish/witn/2008/02/080227_dangerous_car.shtml

Preparation: Before the lesson, make enough copies of worksheets 2 and 3 so that there is 1 worksheet for every 4 – 5 students. Cut up the vocabulary and explanations to make a matching exercise. Students also need one copy each of worksheet 1.

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LESSON STAGES

A Stimulate student interest in text

Put students into small groups and ask them to make a list of different types of vehicles. The first group to make a list of ten is the winner.

Examples: car, truck, tank, bike, motorbike, ambulance, bus, tram, caravan, tractor.

B Pre-teach essential vocabulary

Elicit/present key vocabulary that students need either to understand the key points in the text or to understand and/or answer any questions that you'll set them later in the lesson. The vocabulary is from Words in the News (so you can elicit the vocabulary by using the explanations provided online or below).

You could either pre-teach the vocabulary at this stage of the lesson or you could use the vocabulary building activity from further down in this lesson plan. Have students working together in small groups and ask them to try to match the vocabulary with the definitions. Encourage them to work with the other groups to pool their knowledge.

When they have done as much as they can, if they have dictionaries, ask them to look up the words to check their answers and to find out the definitions of any words they are not sure of. If they don't have dictionaries, check their answers and give them help with any words they aren't sure of.

Whichever method you use to elicit/present the vocabulary, you should then model it (say it clearly, highlighting the word stress) and get them to repeat the words after you.

is marketed

is advertised, is promoted

a rough and tough off-road vehicle

a strong, robust car that you can drive in fields, tracks or small lanes

recreational

something you use in your spare time, as a hobby, not something you use for work

airbags

bags in vehicles that automatically fill with air if vehicles are involved in an accident, so that drivers or passengers are protected from injury

during a collision

in a car crash

body shell

the whole of the outside structure

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the foot well deformed on impact

the foot well (the area in the car where you place your feet) got damaged very badly when the car crashed

putting the driver at risk of injuries

it was likely that the driver would get injured

pedals

bars which you push down with your foot to control a vehicle

modified

changed

C Written record of vocabulary

Write the words on the board, eliciting spelling as you write. Elicit and show the word stress of each item and word class, if appropriate.

Give students some time to copy the boardwork into their notebooks.

Boardwork:

is marketed

a rough and tough off-road vehicle

recreational

airbags

during a collision

body shell

the foot well deformed on impact

putting the driver at risk of injuries

pedals

modified

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D Set a skimming question

Tell the students they are going to read a text about a car made by Nissan. Put this question on the board:

The problem is with:

- A. all Nissan cars
- B. all Navara trucks
- C. Navara trucks made in 2008
- D. 2,008 of Nissan's cars

Students read text the first time.

Give them a time limit (1 - 2 minutes) to read the text quickly to find the answer to the question. They do not need to understand the details of the text to answer it.

E Check answers

C. Navara trucks made in 2008. Paragraph 3 says 'Nissan said the problem with the airbags only affected 2008 models of the Navara'.

F Set specific information questions

Hand out worksheet 1 or use the online quiz. Students complete the worksheet to help them understand the text in more detail. Give them a time limit (5 - 6 minutes) to read the text a second time in more detail and to answer the questions.

G Check answers

Elicit True or False answers. Direct attention to a particular paragraph if an answer is wrong to try to elicit the correct answer (see worksheet 1 and answer key).

H Vocabulary consolidation/building

Students do the vocabulary matching exercise (worksheet 2 that you cut up before the lesson). In small groups they match the correct word with the right definition.

I Check answers

Elicit answers. If an answer is wrong, ask other students to try to elicit the correct answer.

J Vocabulary focus: Vocabulary – Binomials

Ask students what words are used in the text to describe a car that's strong and reliable (rough and tough). Elicit what's unusual about this expression (both words sound similar but have a different first sound).

Explain that there are lots of phrases in English that use two words like this. For example, 'top and tail' and 'huff and puff'. These expressions are known as binomials. In these

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phrases the word order is usually fixed; we say 'top and tail', not 'tail and top'. Binomials often combine words that rhyme (for example, in today's text 'rough and tough' was mentioned) or that have the same first sound (for example 'top and tail'). Although there are also lots of other kinds of binomials (for example, 'gin and tonic' and 'nice and easy'), today we'll concentrate on ones that rhyme or have a similar first sound .

Hand out worksheet 3 which focuses on binomials.

K Check answers

If an answer is wrong, ask other students to try to elicit the correct answer (see worksheet 3 and answer key).

L Follow-up activity: Speaking

Write one or two controversial statements about transport on the board. Ask students to call out some more statements of their own to add to the list.

Tell them they are going to discuss some of these topics for 4 minutes in pairs. Each student has to talk for 2 minutes on each topic.

Give them 3 - 4 minutes to prepare what they are going to say and make some notes, if they want to.

When they begin a new topic, students take it in turn to choose who is for the topic and who is against it.

Example topics:

- All public transport should be free.
- Only cyclists should be allowed to ride in city centres during the working week.
- People over 60 shouldn't be allowed to drive cars.
- There should be 100% tax on petrol and the money raised used to improve public transport.
- There should be no restrictions on where people are allowed to drive their cars.

While they are speaking, move around the room listening to them unobtrusively. Make notes of any errors you hear.

M Feedback

Give praise for some of the content you heard during the discussions (for example, who sounded convincing or who had the most original ideas etc.). Give praise for correct language, and give feedback on incorrect language. You could write some example phrases or sentences on the board and elicit from students which ones are correct and which ones are wrong and why.

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STUDENT WORKSHEET 1

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Are the following sentences true or false?

1.	Nissan is advertising the Navara as a safe, reliable family car.	T/F
2.	More and more people are now using the car for business and commercial purposes.	T/F
3.	During the Euro NCAP test the safety features of the Navara performed very badly.	T/F
4.	The metal outside covering of the Navara proved to be very strong in the tests.	T/F
5.	In a crash, it's likely that a Navara driver will be injured by the pedals.	T/F
6.	Nissan have asked customers to get their airbags changed, for the Euro NCAP to test them again and to make their results public.	T/F

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STUDENT WORKSHEET 2

VOCABULARY

Match these words and phrases to their definitions.

1.	is marketed	A.	bars which you push down with your foot to control a vehicle
2.	a rough and tough off-road vehicle	B	the area in the car where you place your feet got damaged very badly when the car crashed
3.	recreational	C.	bags in vehicles that automatically fill with air if vehicles are involved in an accident, so that drivers or a passengers are protected from injury
4.	airbags	D.	changed
5.	during a collision	E.	a strong, robust car that you can drive in fields, tracks or small lanes
6.	body shell	F.	the whole of the outside structure
7.	the foot well deformed on impact	G.	something you use in your spare time, as a hobby, not something you use for work
8.	putting the driver at risk of injuries	H.	is advertised, is promoted
9.	pedals	I.	it was likely that the driver would get injured
10.	modified	J.	in a car crash

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STUDENT WORKSHEET 3

LANGUAGE FOCUS – BINOMIALS

Binomials are pairs of words that go together in set phrases. Many binomials combine words that rhyme (for example, in today's text 'rough and tough' was mentioned) or that have the same first sound (for example, 'safe and sound').

Match these binomials with their meanings.

	Binomial		Meaning
1.	rough and tough	A.	make a profit or get an advantage by using clever or complicated methods
2.	facts and figures	B.	do something with no support
3.	sink or swim	C.	data or information
4.	safe and sound	D.	important people
5.	no rhyme or reason	E.	basic ideas or problems that most people can directly relate to or understand
6.	bread-and-butter	F.	secure, out of harm's way
7.	the great and the good	G.	strong
8.	wheel and deal	H.	with a sensible explanation

Now, complete the sentences using the correct binomial.

1. _____ of Hollywood turned out to the Oscar ceremony recently.
2. There's _____ for what he does. He's just does whatever he likes. He never thinks about anyone else.
3. After all those long delays at the airport, it's good to be home _____.
4. The minister had all the _____ at his fingertips but the journalist still didn't really believe him.
5. I don't trust him at all. He's always _____. There's always something he wants to sell you.
6. She didn't help at all on my first day in my new job. I was left to _____.
7. Are you ready to join the _____ world of the army?
8. This is a real _____ issue in this election.

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ANSWER KEY

STUDENT WORKSHEET 1

1. **False** – Paragraph 1 says, 'The Nissan Navarra is marketed as a rough and tough off-road vehicle'.
2. **False** – Paragraph 1 says, '... it's increasingly popular as a recreational car'.
3. **True** – Paragraph 1 says, 'But the Euro NCAP test revealed its airbags opened too slowly and seatbelts didn't provide enough protection during a collision'.
4. **False** – Paragraph 2 says, 'The body shell of the vehicle wasn't strong enough'.
5. **True** – Paragraph 2 says, '... the foot well deformed on impact, putting the driver at risk of injuries from the foot pedals'.
6. **True** – Paragraph 3 says, 'Nissan ... (is) inviting owners to have their airbag settings changed, and Euro NCAP to publish test results for the modified vehicle'.

STUDENT WORKSHEET 2

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. H | 2. E | 3. G | 4. C | 5. J |
| 6. F | 7. B | 8. I | 9. A | 10. D |

STUDENT WORKSHEET 3

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. G | 2. C | 3. B | 4. F |
| 5. H | 6. E | 7. D | 8. A |

1. The great and the good
2. no rhyme or reason
3. safe and sound
4. facts and figures
5. wheeling and dealing
6. sink or swim
7. rough and tough
8. bread-and-butter

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The European body responsible for testing new cars has demanded a popular model of pick-up truck to be recalled after giving it one of the worst ever crash safety ratings. Experts say the poor design of the Nissan Navara made deaths and serious injuries more likely in an accident. This report from Tom Symonds:

The Nissan Navara **is marketed** as **a rough and tough off-road vehicle**. Sometimes used for transporting goods or equipment, it's increasingly popular as a **recreational** car.

But the Euro NCAP test revealed its **airbags** opened too slowly and seatbelts didn't provide enough protection **during a collision**. The **body shell** of the vehicle wasn't strong enough, and **the foot well deformed on impact, putting the driver at risk of injuries** from the foot **pedals**. Another pickup truck, the Isuzu Dmax, also scored poorly with just two stars.

Nissan said the problem with the airbags only affected 2008 models of the Navara. It's inviting owners to have their airbag settings changed, and Euro NCAP to publish test results for the **modified** vehicle.

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